Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN



23rd May 2025

Hello everyone,

I wanted to take a moment to share something I'm really excited about. I've recently taken on a new role at Alcester Academy as the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Coordinator.

This role is all about making sure that every student feels seen, heard and valued— whatever their background, identity or experiences. I'll be working with staff, students and families to help create a school environment where fairness, respect and belonging are at the heart of everything we do.

As part of this work, I'm putting together a calendar of events to celebrate the amazing diversity within our school and beyond.

There will be themed assemblies, Super Learning Days, awareness weeks, and some exciting trips to help students explore different cultures, histories and perspectives. I'll be sharing more details on these very soon!

For me, this role is really important because school should be a place where everyone can be themselves, feel safe, and be proud of who they are. I'm really looking forward to helping make that a reality—not just through events, but by listening to students and families and making sure their voices shape the work we do.

If you have any ideas, questions or would like to get involved in anything EDI-related, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email at: emilybishop@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

I'd love to hear from you.

You can also find us on x.com at @alcester edi

Miss Bishop



What's inside this week

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Headlines by Mrs Mellors

Good afternoon parents and carers,

Thanks to Mr Anderson for the IT safety updates in last week's bulletin. And, to Miss Bishop for launching the EDI introduction today as part of her new whole school role. This is very exciting.



It's just a very brief update from me today with a special mention to the Young Enterprise team; *Endangerlings* for their creativity award at the Regional Finals last week, and to our Young Bakers at the Food Festival Bake Off last weekend! Congratulations to everyone involved.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Miss Pass who leaves us today after her work in art and photography during Miss Nemeshanyi's maternity leave. Miss Nemeshanyi returns after half term.

Good luck to the Paris trip!

The Paris trip left at 2am this morning! Watch out on X for their adventures over the next few days.

School training day

Reminder—school training day Friday 27th June 2025. School is closed to all students. I'll update you after half term on other key dates.

Uniform

Miss Buckthorp has sent out a separate communication about uniform for you all. Students should **not** return on 2nd June wearing jumpers. Just their blazer, tie and school shirt with trousers or skirt.

Farewell Mrs Quirke

After 24 dedicated years at the school, we reached a very sad day yesterday saying farewell to Mrs Quirke in LSU as she takes early retirement. Mrs Quirke was first appointed to the school as a teaching assistant. Her role has evolved over time to include supporting the work of our Heads of Year and Houses (Ragley and Greville), and then in our Achievement and Progress Area (APA).

Mrs Quirke's own children attended the school as

students. They are now grown up and keep Mrs Quirke very busy with four children of their own. Most recently, Mrs Quirke has worked as part of our LSU team and has been our deputy safeguarding school lead, a position that she has taken extremely seriously. In her day to day work, Mrs Quirke has led many of our Early Help cycles, she has liaised carefully with our external counselling and mentoring professionals and has brokered the student centred support from many of our external agencies.

For those of you that have worked with Mrs Quirke over her time with us, you'll know quite how caring and compassionate she is and how much time she commits to fully supporting our students and parents alike. In her work, Mrs Quirke has optimised the Academy values at all times. She has gone above and beyond her role for so many individuals, repeatedly ensuring that the students in school are looked after and cared for in a bespoke way according to their needs. On behalf of the governing body, staff, students and parents, I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Quirke for her lifelong dedication to the school and all that she has done for so many over the last 24 years.

Mrs Quirke is well loved by her colleagues at school, and we will all miss seeing her very much indeed. There will be a huge gap left in the day to day life of the school now and it will take some time to adjust to this.

We all wish you a fantastic early retirement Mrs Quirke. Please stay in touch with us!



Finally, I want to wish you all a restful bank holiday and half term. We all return to school on Monday 2nd June 2025. Thank you for your on-going support.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



Amazing Donation!

A huge thank you to Mr Paul McStrafick for donating yet another fantastic custom-built guitar to Alcester Rock Academy! We're truly grateful for his ongoing support and kindness—it means the world to us!

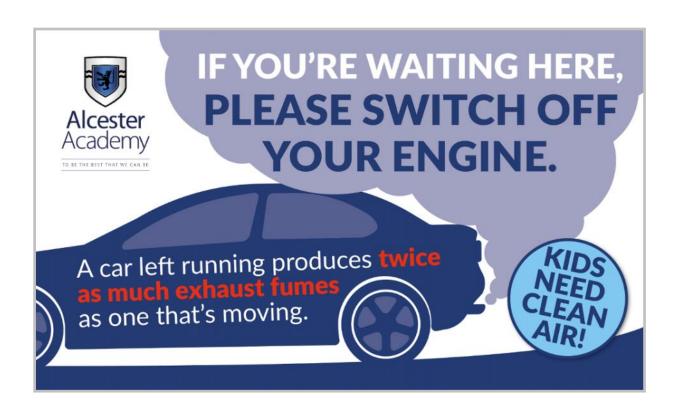
Alcester Rock Academy and Alcester Academy site team have just been given the go-ahead by the council to proceed with our studio build. So it's full steam ahead.

Thanks again to all who donated and support Alcester Rock Academy!

Mr Badham







Riding the Waves: Our Unforgettable Cornwall Adventure

Last week 87 year 9 students along with Miss Buckthorp, Mrs Evason, Mr Badham, Mr Nash and Mr Dallow, all set off for Newquay for a week of water sports on our first ever trip down to Cornwall, where we spent the week on the beautiful beaches of Newquay and Falmouth.

Over the next few days, we found ourselves body boarding, learning to stand up surf and catching waves at Fistral Beach in Newquay. After a couple of days in Newquay, we went off to Swanpool Beach in Falmouth and spent two days doing stand up paddleboarding, sailing and kayaking. There was lots of fun on the Mega SUP with some great teamwork been shown.

One of the favourite activities of the week was coasteering where many faced their challenges by jumping off the high rocks and making their way along the coastline at Falmouth. It was great to see the students really supporting each other.















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We had beautiful sunny weather and it was an amazing week, made possible by the fantastic group of young people that we took. It was a real pleasure to see how the students all got on, supported each other, grew in confidence and learnt how to live alongside each other as well as seeing them gain confidence and learning new skills.









The students were an absolute credit to the school, and they were complimented by all the instructors from Elemental UK who really enjoyed working with them, and loved their spirit, politeness and sheer enthusiasm in all they did, this made us very proud! They were delightful company.

Thanks to all the students, staff and parents who supported the trip.

 ${\it Miss Buckthorp}$













PHOTOGRAPHY

lifestyle









Being a photographer is a lifestyle, no matter where you are. Even when away on a residential trip to Newquay!

Our Y9 photographers were able to put their technical skills to use, demonstrating rule of thirds, focal points and saturation filters.

Credit: Amelia, Y9



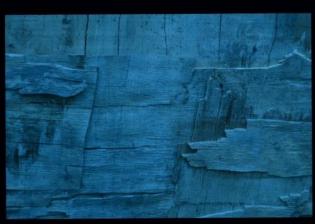


Macrophotography

Photography Club has been exploring macrophotography, specifically focussing on textures and detail. They captured a fantastic series of photographs showing a range of surfaces. They created physical filters by using cellophane.











Safeguarding over Whitsun half term





https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door) immediately by calling 01926 414144.

Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922.

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling 999.

Could You Be Our Next School Governor?

Alcester Academy is seeking committed individuals to join our Governing Body

Our Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and share a common goal: to ensure every student at Alcester Academy receives the highest quality education and support. Working closely with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, and staff, Governors provide strong strategic direction and help shape the school's future.

We are proud of our welcoming, inclusive, and positive school ethos, and we believe that a strong Governing Body plays a vital role in sustaining this environment.

You don't need experience in education—just a willingness to contribute, learn, and make a difference. While the time commitment is flexible, we ask Governors to attend at least four meetings per term.

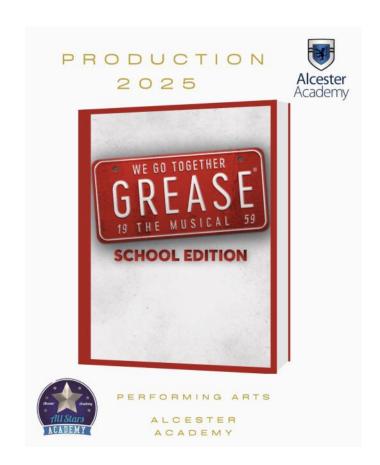
If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Mike Dean, Chair of Governors, at mikedean@alcesteracademy.org.uk, or get in touch with the Academy office admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

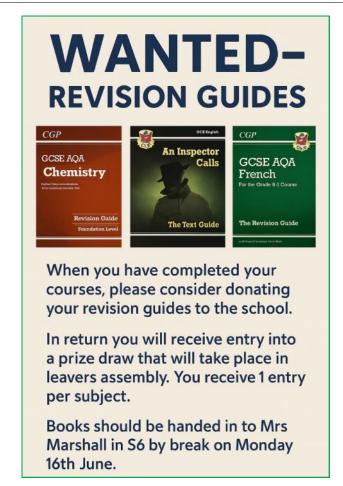
Mike Dean—Chair of Governors

Grease is the Word! Our November 2025 School Show Announced

We are excited to announce that our November 2025 school show will be *Grease the Musical*. More details will follow after May half term!

Performing Arts
Department





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Alcester Academy Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2025

Half Term Monday 26th—Friday 30th May 2025

Back to school Monday 2nd June 2025

School closed Friday 27th June 2025—Teacher training day

Summer Term ends Friday 18th July 2025 at 12.40pm

Parents' Evenings 2024-25

Thursday 12th June 2025 Year 7 Parents' Evening. SchoolCloud

Alcester Food Festival Bake Off

Last Saturday, thirteen students from Alcester Academy took part in the Alcester Food Festival Bake Off, competing against other students from St Benedicts and Alcester Grammar School.

The theme for the bake off was *Marvellous Creations*, students were tasked with designing and making a tray bake inspired by *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The students did a fantastic job and made some really creative tray bakes which were presented at the food festival and judged by professional bakers and members of the Cadbury Family Trust.

A huge congratulations to Alice in year 10 who won the best KS4 entry with her creation, and to Connor in year 7 who did an amazing job to be crowned the overall winner of the competition!

Connor made a Jaffa Brownie which went down a storm with the judges, and he took home the prize of a luxury hamper from Hilliers Farm Shop.

Well done and thank you to all the students that took part and made such an effort to display their fantastic creations at the Bake Off.

Mr Tuckey





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Casual Driver

Casual Driver Required Hourly Rate £13.74

Closing date: Friday 29th May at 12 noon

Starting: As soon as possible

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Post

Driver required to transport students in years 7-11 from addresses in Alcester and Bidford to Alternative Education Providers in Warwickshire. Morning and afternoon collections required. Timetable of requirements will vary.

Relevant driving skills and valid licence allowing the post holder to drive a "D1" size vehicle is essential. The successful candidate will need to be prepared to complete a minibus diving test organised by the Academy.

Application Process

Interested applicants should hold a clean driving licence and be subject to a full DBS check. Could suit retired person. Please email the school if you are interested, with a full CV admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.



Epraise Leaderboard—for the past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Oliver	7TN	Greville	18 points
1	Ella	10MO	Greville	18 points
3	Leo	7LX	Ragley	17 points
3	Kian	10BI	Billesley	17 points
5	Tony	10PL	Billesley	16 points
5	Ranveer	8RO	Greville	16 points
5	Austin	7RA	Ragley	16 points
5	Kaitlyn	7TN	Billesley	16 points
9	Elliot	7RA	Ragley	15 points
9	Nora	7LX	Oversley	15 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Billesley	1039 points
2	Oversley	1023 points
3	Ragley	988 points
4	Greville	980 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

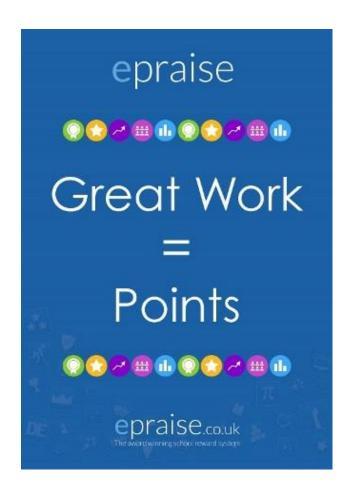
1	English	516 points
2	Science	466 points
3	Maths	386 points
4	French	232 points
5	History	224 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mrs Hirji	315 points
2	Mrs Weatherley	242 points
3	Mrs Gorner	239 points
4	Mr Rossiter	224 points
5	Mrs Marshall	211 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	71 Y	270 points
_		-
2	7RA	264 points
3	7TN	240 points
4	8NA	237 points
5	8RO	236 points



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SUMMER OPEN MORNINGS AT ALCESTER ACADEMY



Monday 23rd June and Thursday 26th June 2025







The Staff and Governors of Alcester Academy warmly invite you to our

Summer Open Mornings

Summer Open Mornings offer a pre-bookable guided tour of the school at 9.30am or 11.35am, with a member of the SLT. To book a guided tour call the main office on 01789 762285 or alternatively email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The school will also be holding
Guided Open Mornings in the Autumn term.
Respectfully, we ask families to book either a
Summer Open Morning or an Autumn Open Morning.

Alcester Academy Gerard Road, Alcester B49 6QQ Tel: 01789 762285

Email: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk
Website: www.alcesteracademy.org.uk

Extra Curricular Timetable

Summer 2025

Monday

Lunchtime

Pride Group- E4
Acoustic Group- Hut
ART- A1 & A2



Tuesday

<u>Lunchtime</u>
Pop Band- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic
ALL YEARS- M1
Board Games - H3
<u>After School</u>
European languages club -L2

Wednesday

Lunchtime

Orchestra - Hut

ART- A1 & A2

Chess club- M3

Introduction to Media-E5

Public Speaking - H2

After school

Cooking Club -

Alternate weeks

Introduction to Spanish - L1

(Summer 2)

Thursday

Lunchtime

Young Enterprise- IT3 Rock Band- Hut Photography Club - A1

Lego club - S4

Warhammer club Y8- H5

ART- A1 & A2

After School

Art Club (GCSE only)- A1 & A2 Musical Theatre Club - Drama History Film club -H1

Friday

Lunchtime

STEM/Science- T2

Year 11 Year book-H4

ART- A1 & A2

Endangerlings Game Club - PE 1

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week is 91.9%

Top tutors this week:

7LX with 96.8% attendance 8AN with 97.5% attendance 9GA with 98.5% attendance 10BW with 94.1% attendance 11MR with 89.6% attendance If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 8.30am each day.

This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Thank you, *Mrs Hatcher*



If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.



DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

Notice for Parents

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Alcester Academy keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

Alcester Academy requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.



If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.



DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted.
 Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A
 penalty notices will not be issued, and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal
 Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

This week's Sport: U13 Cricket v AGS

It was brilliant to see our U13 cricket team in action this week v AGS. Well done to all who represented the Academy. A special mention to the four year 7 students who played fantastically well in the year 8 fixture, and to Barney who got 2 wickets in a row and showed some superb bowling skills. The match was decided by just 2 runs, with AGS taking victory, however it was an extremely positive first performance to build on after half term.



U13 and U15 Girls Tennis v AGS

Our girls LTA School's tennis league season got underway. It was brilliant to have so many girls represent the Academy in this fixture versus Stratford School and even more so, that a large number were playing their first competitive match. Well done to our U15 team who were victorious on the afternoon and a particular mention to Poppy (year 7) who led our U15 girls brilliantly by winning both her singles and doubles match.



U13 and U15 Boys Tennis v AGS

Our boys league match versus Stratford was played on Thursday this week, I look forward to updating you on this fixtures result after half term.

After School Sport



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY





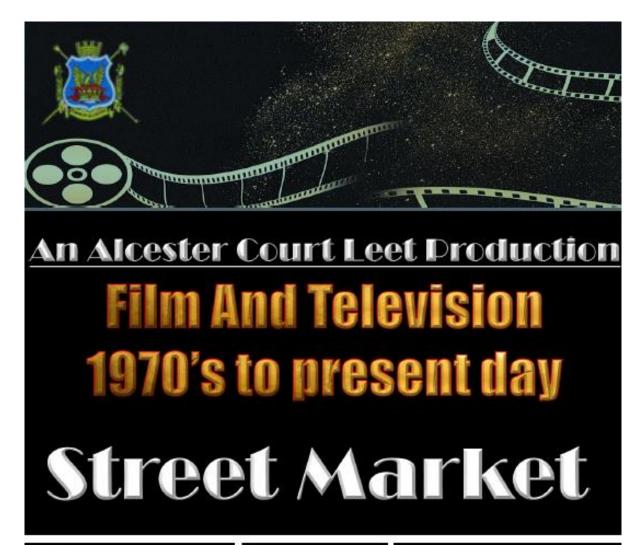
For more information and to register please visit www.stratford-rowing.co.uk/summer-camps











Date:

8TH JUNE 2025

Time:

IPM-5PM

Location:

ALCESTER HIGH STREET

Sponsored by: Alcester Moorfields Trust











#SALUTEOURFORCES

Saturday 28 June



FREE Community Event

Free activities & food for children - hot dogs, burgers and ice creams* Free Indian vegetarian food (Sikh Langar)* Paid food & drink vendors including coffee, pizza and a bar Music from Ruby Ann Sings | Military reenactors & vehicles Military heritage village Tri-Service competition Find out more about a career in the military Flypast from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight - Avro Lancaster

Saturday 28 June, 11am to 3pm Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa, CV32 4AA



For further information visit: warwickdc.gov.uk/armedforcesday



























